IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 23, 33 and 34 as follows:

---

1. (Original) A container manager, comprising:

a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming

a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing,

and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said

lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

a port borne by said housing and exposed through said housing to accommodate

conduction of transmission of data signals between said closed interior and an environment

external to said housing;

a control stage comprised of a memory storing information specific to said

container, said control stage being mounted entirely within and being completely encased by said

container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to provide

communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in dependence upon

disposition of said port relative to a source of said data signals, in dependence upon disposition

of said container within a scheme for generation of said data signals, and in response to occurrence

of a coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data

sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon said information stored within said

memory; and

a moveable latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said lid from

19 said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said lid from said

20 complete engagement.

1 2. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of a socket mounted

2 within said housing providing said port.

1 3. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an infrared receiver

2 mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 4. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an antenna mounted

2 within said housing providing said port.

1 5. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3 said port, generating said data key; and

4 a data cable coupling said host computer to said port.

1 6. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3 said port, generating said data key; and

4 a local area network coupling said host computer to said port.

1   7. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data key;

4   said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

5   a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

6   a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting said host

7   computer to said first antenna.

1   8. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data key;

4   an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal

5   corresponding to said data key; and

6   an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data

7   key from said infrared transmitter.

1   9. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data key;

4   a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to broadcast

5 an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

6 a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,

7 disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit operational

8 communications from said controller to said host computer via said first infrared transmitter and

9 receiver.

1 10. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized

3 interruption of said communication via said port; and

4 an alarm driven by said controller to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized

5 interruption in response to said alarm signal.

1 11. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3 said port, periodically making a determination of whether said an unauthorized interruption of said

4 communication has occurred; and

5 an alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

6 unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1 12. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized

3   interruption of said communication via said port;

4   a first alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

5   unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal;

6   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

7   said port, periodically making a determination of whether said an unauthorized interruption of said

8   communication has occurred; and

9   a second alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

10   unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1   13. (Original) A container manager, comprising:

2   a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming

3   a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing,

4   and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said

5   lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

6   a port mounted within said housing and exposed through said housing to receive

7   data signals;

8   a control stage comprised of a memory storing information specific to said

9   container, said control stage being mounted entirely within said container, being completely

10   encased by said container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to

11   provide communication by data signals with said interior via said port, and generating an alarm

12   signal in response to an unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port; and

13   an alarm driven by said controller to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized

14   interruption in response to said alarm signal.

1   14. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of a socket mounted

2   within said housing providing said port.

1   15. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of an infrared receiver

2   mounted within said housing providing said port.

1   16. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of an antenna

2   mounted within said housing providing said port.

1   17. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data signals; and

4   a data cable coupling said host computer to said port while conveying said data

5   signals to said controller via said port.

1   18. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data signals; and

4   a local area network coupling said host computer to said port while conveying said

5   data signals to said controller via said port.

1   19. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data signals;

4   said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

5   a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

6   a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting said host

7   computer to said first antenna while conveying said data signals to said controller via said first

8   antenna.

1   20. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data signals;

4   an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal

5   corresponding to said data signals; and

6   an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive and

7   convey to said controller said data signals from said infrared transmitter.

1   21. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2   a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via

3   said port, generating said data key;

4   a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to broadcast

5   an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

6   a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,

7   disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit operational

8   communications from said controller to said host computer via said first infrared transmitter and

9   receiver.

22. (Original) The container manager of claim 14, further comprised of:

2   said controller generating a control signal in response to occurrence of a coincidence

3   between a data key received via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in

4   dependence upon information stored within said memory; and

5   an electromechanical latch responding to said control signal by hindering removal

6   of said lid from said complete engagement.

1   23. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

2   a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming

3   a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing,

4   and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said

5   lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

-13-

6   a port exposed through one of said sidewalls to receive data signals;

7   a control stage comprised of a memory, said control stage being mounted on said

8   container and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said

9   port, and generating a control signal in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key

10   received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage

11   in dependence upon information stored within said memory, <u>in dependence upon disposition of</u>

12   <u>said port relative to a source of said data signals and in dependence upon disposition of said</u>

13   <u>container within a timed scheme for generation of said data signals;</u>

new

14   a microprocessor based host computer sited externally to said container, said host

15   computer comprising a keyboard initiating formation of said data signals and a monitor driven by

16   said host computer to visually display video images, said host computer being operationally

17   coupled to said port and participating in said communication by generating said data signals; and

18   an electromechanical latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said

19   lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said lid from

20   said complete engagement.

1   24.   (Original) The container manager of claim 23, further comprised of a data cable

2   coupling said host computer to said port.

1   25.   (Original) The container manager of claim 24, further comprised of a local area

2   network coupling said host computer to said port.

1   26. (Original) The container manager of claim 25, further comprised of:

2   said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

3   a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

4   a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting said host

5   computer to said first antenna.

1   27. (Original) The container manager of claim 26, further comprised of:

2   an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal

3   corresponding to said data key; and

4   an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data

5   key from said infrared transmitter.

1   28. (Original) The container manager of claim 27, further comprised of:

2   a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to broadcast

3   an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

4   a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,

5   disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit operational

6   communications from said controller to said host computer via said first infrared transmitter and

7   receiver.

1   29. (Original) A container manager, comprising:

2   a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming

3   a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing,

4   said housing providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior

5   while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

6   a port exposed through said housing to receive data signals;

7   a control stage comprised of a memory, said control stage being mounted on said

8   container and being operationally coupled to provide communication by data signals with said

9   interior via said port;

    a microprocessor based host computer sited externally to said container, said host

11   computer comprising a keyboard initiating formation of said data signals and a monitor driven by

12   said host computer to visually display video images, said host computer being operationally

13   coupled to said port and participating in said communication by generating said data signals; and

14   an alarm driven in response to an unauthorized interruption of said communication

15   via said port to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm

16   signal.

1   30. (Original) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised of:

2   said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized

3   interruption of said communication via said port; and

4   said alarm being driven by said control stage to broadcast an indication of said

5   unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal.

1   31. (Original) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised of:

2   said host computer periodically making a determination while operationally coupled

3   to said controller via said port, of whether said an unauthorized interruption of said

4   communication has occurred; and

5   an alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

6   unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

32. (Original) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised of:

said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized

3   interruption of said communication via said port;

4   a first alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

5   unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal;

6   said host computer periodically making a determination while operationally coupled

7   to said controller via said port, of whether said an unauthorized interruption of said communication

8   has occurred; and

9   a second alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said

10   unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1   33. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised of:

2   said data signals exhibiting a first wavelength, and said data signals exhibiting a

3   second and different wavelength carrier signal; and

4   said port being plug coupleable to said control stage, and comprising a ~~receiver~~

5   <u>transmitter</u> stage converting said data signals into [[input]] <u>output</u> signals exhibiting said second

6   wavelength, and a ~~transmitter~~ <u>receiver</u> stage converting said data signals into ~~output~~ <u>input</u> signals

7   exhibiting said first wavelength.

1   34. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 29, with said port comprised of:

2   a first unit that is plug coupleable to said control stage when said data signals

3   ~~received~~ <u>provided</u> by said [[port]] <u>control stage</u> exhibit a first wavelength and said data signals

4   ~~provided~~ <u>received</u> by said ~~control stage~~ <u>port</u> exhibit a second and different wavelength carrier

5   signal, said first unit comprising a receiver stage converting said data signals received by said port

6   into input signals exhibiting said ~~second~~ <u>first</u> wavelength, and a transmitter stage converting said

7   data signals provided by said control stage into output signals exhibiting said [[first]] <u>second</u>

8   wavelength; and

9   a second unit that is plug coupleable to said control stage and interchangeable with

10   said first unit to provide a data connection between said control stage and said host computer when

11   said data signals received by said port exhibit the same wavelength as said data signals provided

12   by said control stage.

1   35. (Original) A container manager, comprising:

2   a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming

3   a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing,

4   and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said

5   lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

6   a source of an input signal representing a first class of information, mounted upon

7   and borne by said housing;

8   a port borne by said housing and exposed through said housing to accommodate

9   conduction of transmission of data signals through said housing;

10   a control stage comprised of a memory storing a second class of information

11   specific to said container, said control stage being mounted entirely within and being completely

12   encased by said container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to

13   provide communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in

14   dependence upon disposition of said port relative to an origin of said data signals, in dependence

15   upon said information represented by said input signal, and in response to occurrence of a

16   coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence

17   obtained by said control stage in dependence upon said information stored within said memory;

18   and

19   a latch mounted on said housing and disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal

20   of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said

21   lid from said complete engagement.

1   36. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said source

2   detecting movement of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said movement.

1   37. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said source

2   detecting a position of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said position.

1   38. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said control stage

2   generating said control signal in response to instructions received by said control stage from said

3   host computer independently of said disposition of said port, independently of said information

4   represented by said input signal, and independently of said occurrence of coincidence.

1   39. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said control stage

2   generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said port, in dependence of said

3   information represented by said input signal, in dependence of said occurrence of coincidence, and

4   in response to instructions received by said control stage from a host computer coupled to said

5   port.

1   40.   (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container

2   being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being

3   available only at destination.

41.   (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being transmitted to said port from said origin.

42.   (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being available only at destination.

43. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data signals.

44. (Original) The container manager of claim 43, further comprised of said host computer comprising a cellular telephone bearing a graphical user interface.

45. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of some or all of said data signals being transmitted across or received one of an Internet and a wide area network.

46. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said data signals comprising one of an e-mail packet and an attachment to an e-mail message.

1   47. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said information

2   represented by said source comprising a global location of the container, and said control stage

3   generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said port, in dependence of said

4   information represented by said input signal, and in dependence of said occurrence of coincidence.

1   48. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container

2   being transportable between an origin and a destination, and a user at one of said origin and said

3   destination requests via a network a request for some part of said data key.

1   49. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container

2   being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said second class of information is

3   installed at said origin comprises biometric data matching a person of a human user of said

4   container and said coincidence must be made with biometric data matching said person at said

5   destination.